

XXIX.—*Diagnoses of Thirty-six new or little-known Birds from British New Guinea.* By C. W. DE VIS.

THE birds which I propose to describe are from the collections made under the leadership of Sir William Macgregor by Mr. A. Giulianetti, during his late journey across British New Guinea, from the Mambarc River to the Vanapa River. The passages in the descriptions within inverted commas are transcripts, with here and there slight modifications, of Mr. Giulianetti's notes on the labels.

An enumeration of all the species occurring in the general collection is reserved for an appendix to the Annual Report to the Queensland Parliament on British New Guinea for the present year*.

Fam. PSITTACIDÆ.

1. NEOPSITTACUS VIRIDICEPS, sp. nov.

Body above, chin, and throat rich dark green, with a very feeble brown tint on the occiput and nape, and with scarcely perceptible paler shaft-streaks; ear-coverts mostly stained

* Count Salvadori has kindly sent us the following translation of a letter addressed to him by Sign. Giulianetti concerning this remarkable expedition:—

"I have just come back from an expedition into the interior of S.E. New Guinea. I passed the months of September and October and part of November on Mount Scratchley. At my camp, at 12,200 feet, the birds were very numerous, and many belonged to species which I had never seen near the coast. I obtained, among others, a Woodcock, a Snipe, and two Ducks. There was a Blackbird very common, and also a kind of *Anthus*.

"On the 6th of September I killed two specimens of an apparently new Bird of Paradise; it has the general plumage black and eight of the remiges yellow. Round the eyes there is a naked caruncle as large as a twopenny-piece, of an orange-yellow colour. The bill is similar to that of *Astrarchia*, but narrower and more pointed. [Evidently the new Bird of Paradise described by Mr. De Vis as *Macgregoria pulchra*, Ibis, 1897, p. 251, pl. vii.] I found also a *Parotia*, with the frontal star not white, but coloured like the rest of the feathers of the body; only a few small feathers over the nostrils are yellow. [See *Parotia helenæ*, below, p. 390.] I obtained also specimens of the genera *Epimachus*, *Astrarchia*, *Diphyllodes*, and of a *Paradisea* allied to *P. raggiana*, but different, being smaller

with red and streaked with yellow; middle rectrices dark green to tip, laterals rather paler and very narrowly edged with yellow round the tip, basal three-fourths of their inner webs red, abruptly defined from the green beyond; breast and middle of abdomen red; flanks and sides of breast pure green, but paler than the throat; under tail-coverts pale green, covering the orange-red bases; metacarpal edge green; under wing-coverts, lesser series as the breast, greater series and inner webs of remiges for basal two-thirds rather paler and duller red; wing beneath deep fuscous; extreme outer edge of outer and inner edge of inner primaries very narrowly edged with yellow: "iris light red; beak orange, yellow at tip and beneath; feet grey." Length 178 mm., wing 100, tail 95, bill 13, tarsus 11.

"Female: Mt. Scratchley, at 12,200 feet, Oct. 5th, 1896; contents of stomach, fruits."

The green and practically uniform head, the well-defined area of red on the lateral rectrices, the uniform middle rectrices, and the almost entire absence of yellow on the under surface of the tail, render this bird quite distinct from *N. muschenbroeki*, Rosenb. On the occiput there is an unpaired spot of orange feathers, no doubt a sport.

Fam. FALCONIDÆ.

2. ACCIPITER ERYTHRAUCHEN, Gray.

Young male. Above fuscous brown slightly washed with grey, all the feathers with rufous edges, which increase in

and having the feathers of the back greyish yellow. Altogether I collected 220 birds; but I was ill for some time and suffered for want of food, and for a long time I remained with only a single native with me. I visited a village on Mount Scratchley, and was well received by the natives. Next April I propose to penetrate again into the interior and to put my camp on Mount Albert Edward, and after having collected on the high plateaux of the mountain I mean to make excursions in the valleys on the different sides. If I succeed in my projects, I feel confident that I shall find new Birds of Paradise, as it seems that the different species are very locally distributed.

"The collection acquired during my last expedition has already been sent to Brisbane."

width and brightness caudad; some of the feathers of the hind neck with their white bases apparent, others passing into a chestnut-brown to form an incipient collar; edges and tips of secondaries and tips of inner primaries rufous; tail fuscous grey, with several (twelve) fuscous bars on the inner webs of the quills, the tips of the quills rufous, interspaces pale fawn on inner half of inner web; chin, throat, and upper breast isabelline grey, with longitudinal streaks, narrow on chin and throat, broader on upper breast; lower breast washed with rufous and its streaks rufous brown; abdomen and under tail-coverts very pale rufous, with rufous streaks; thighs uniform rufous; side of throat isabel-grey, with broad fuscous streaks; cheeks similar; ear-coverts and a spot behind upper angle of eye fuscous brown, the latter with a rufous line above it; under wing-coverts pale rufous, with rhomboidal fuscous spots in the centres; inner webs of remiges pale cinnamon; flanks buffy white, with broad rufous-brown bars; tail beneath grey: "iris dull yellow; beak black; feet light yellow." Length 280 mm., wing 176, tail 145, tarsus 45, culmen from base of cere 12.5.

"Neneba, Mt. Scratchley, at 4000 feet, Nov. 11th, 1896."

In colouring this bird seems to be very like the unknown young of *A. erythrauchen*, to which I refer it.

3. *Circus*, sp. inc.

Young male. Above fuscous brown, with broad rufous edges, upper tail-coverts uniform; head and neck black; tail above fuscous, with several (twelve) narrow bars, beneath paler, with lighter bars paling to white at base; beneath white; pectorals with broad rufous edges, shaft-streaks fuscous, gradually widening from chin to lower breast, and breaking up into two broad bars on abdomen and under tail-coverts; cheeks white, with broad blackish streaks; wing-coverts above and below and metacarpal edge rufous, with sagittate fuscous centres; remiges with white bars (nine) on inner web; thighs white, stained with rufous and barred with black: "iris yellow; beak grey, point black, cere yellow-green; feet yellow." Length 460 mm., wing 288, tail 245, culmen 25, tarsus 70.

“Neneba, Nov. 1st, 1896 ; contents of stomach, birds. Native name ‘Kigo.’”

From the proportions of this young Harrier we have reason to refrain from uniting it to *C. spilothorax*, Salvad. & d’Alb. ; it is still more difficult to identify it with *C. maillardi*, Verr., *C. wolffi*, Gurn., or any other described species, but until the juvenile state of *C. spilothorax* is more certainly ascertained it is prudent to leave the identity of the present bird an open question. The fourth primary is decidedly the longest, and the fifth is notched on the base of the outer web.

Fam. MUSCICAPIDÆ.

4. MONARCHA DIVAGA, sp. nov.

General colour brown-black ; feathers of head squamate, with brilliant steel-blue lustre ; back, upper tail-coverts, edges of median rectrices, scapulars, wing-coverts, edges of inner remiges, side of head, and a broad band across the upper breast with duller steel-blue reflections ; under surface of wing and tail paler : “iris brown ; bill and feet black.” Length 215 mm., wing 115, tail 110, culmen 24, tarsus 18.

“Female : Boirave, July 14th, 1896 ; contents of stomach, insects. Native name ‘Divaga.’”

In this bird the rictal bristles are very strong and reach to the tip of the bill, and the edges of both mandibles are obtusely serrated.

5. RHIPIDURA NIGRIFRONS, sp. nov.

Above bluish ash-grey ; front (broadly), a broad supra-ciliary band curving over ear-coverts, face, chin, and throat jet-black, with a faint metallic lustre ; a line from behind the eye, separating the black throat from the grey nape, and all beneath white ; median wing- and primary-coverts with white tips, forming two bars across the wing ; upper tail-coverts and tail black ; four outer rectrices on each side with white tips graduated in extent ; wing above dark brown, the quills narrowly edged with bluish grey ; metacarpal edge and adjacent under wing-coverts fuscous, rest of the coverts

white, with fuscous bases; under surface of wing brown, of tail fuscous: "iris brown; beak black; feet grey." Length 163 mm., tail 83, wing 76, culmen 10, tarsus 17.

"Male: (locality not given) July 7th, 1896; contents of stomach, insects."

This bird seems to have its nearest ally in the New-Hebridean species *R. melanolema*, but the differences between the two are sufficiently obvious.

6. *RHIPIDURA ALBICAUDA*, sp. nov.

Above, head and neck rufous brown; back, rump, and upper tail-coverts chestnut; face, ear-coverts, and upper throat greyish brown, becoming fawn on the lower throat, breast, and abdomen; lower abdomen, crissals, and under tail-coverts chestnut; inner greater and primary wing-coverts rufous, with brighter rufous tips; wing fuscous brown, with deep rufous edges; tail sordid white, with white shafts; metacarpal edge rufous: beak black, lower mandible pale horn with dark tip; legs and feet pale horn. Length 157 mm., wing 68, tail 88, culmen 6.5, tarsus 22.

The description is from a spirit-specimen. When wet the edges of the rectrices are on the upper surface pale sienna-brown to a greater or lesser extent, the medians showing little more than the shaft white; traces of this brown remain on the tips when dry.

7. *RHIPIDURA OREAS*, sp. nov.

Somewhat resembling *R. maculipectus*, but smaller, with both upper and under surface grey and a feebler bill. General colour above and below grey washed with brown; above uniform; wings and coverts dark brown, two or three of the median and all of the greater series with small white tips; tail fuscous brown, strongly rounded, two outer rectrices tipped with white, the outermost largely, the penultimate very narrowly; front and face black; lores, eyebrow, upper ear-coverts, chin, upper throat, and a patch behind lower coverts white; lower breast and abdomen whity brown, some feathers on upper breast with large white tips; under wing-coverts fuscous, with large tips of greyish white;

wing beneath ashy brown, edges of inner webs more ashy : upper mandible dark brown, lower pale, with dark tip ; legs and feet dark brown. Length 145 mm., wing 77, tail 92, culmen 12, tarsus 17.

Described from a spirit-specimen.

8. *PETRÆCA BIVITTATA*, sp. nov.

Above dull dark grey, on the forehead a large silky-white spot ; wings dark brown, tips of quills edged with grey ; inner secondaries and tertials, especially the last tertial, edged with greyish white on the apical half of the outer web, forming an obscure cross-band ; inner primaries with a white spot near the base, forming a second oblique band ; primary-coverts with a broad white band across their centres ; beneath down to upper breast smoky grey, rest of under surface white ; thighs smoky brown ; metacarpal edge, under wing-coverts, and axillaries white : "iris brown ; beak black ; feet corneous." Length 122 mm., wing 71, tail 50, culmen 7, tarsus 14.5.

"Female : Mt. Scratchley, at 12,200 feet, Oct. 5th, 1896 ; contents of stomach, insects."

9. *PÆCILODRYAS NITIDA*, sp. nov.

Above olive ; upper tail-coverts tinged with yellow and edged with brighter yellow ; head-feathers subsquamate, slightly tinged with orange and obscurely edged with brown ; a large silky-white malar spot continuous with a similar loreal spot, which towards the forehead becomes greenish on the tips ; ear-coverts fuscous washed with yellowish green ; chin grey, tinged with yellow ; sides of throat fuscous, barred with white margins ; rest of lower surface bright yellow ; under wing-coverts lemon-yellow ; wing and tail brown ; primaries edged with grey ; secondaries, primary-coverts, and rectrices with olive : "iris brown ; beak grey, black at point ; feet grey." Length 128 mm., wing 68, tail 67, culmen 8.5, tarsus 11.

"Female : Boirave, July 14th, 1896 ; contents of stomach, insects. Native name 'Totodidiari.'"

10. *PÆCILODRYAS CANICEPS*, sp. nov.

Above, edges of wing-coverts, of remiges, and rectrices olive-green; head above and on the sides dull brownish grey; chin and throat pale grey, varied with darker; upper breast yellowish green; lower breast and abdomen bright yellow, deepening to nearly orange-yellow on the under tail-coverts; wing and tail fuscous brown, under surface of wing rather paler, with ashy edging to the quills; under wing-coverts pale fuscous, tipped with yellow; tail beneath dark brown, strongly washed with olive, the shafts white: bill black; legs and feet horn-brown. Length 160 mm., wing 85, tail 70, tarsus 25.

Description taken from a spirit-specimen.

11. *PÆCILODRYAS LORALIS*, sp. nov.

Above delicate ash-grey, becoming whitish on the rump and upper tail-coverts, brownish black on the head; wing and tail uniform blackish brown; whole body beneath, face, and a large loreal patch nearly covering the forehead white; spot before the eye black; under wing-coverts dark brown: bill, legs, and feet black. Length 155 mm., wing 100, tail 65, culmen 10, tarsus 21.

Description taken from two spirit-specimens.

12. *PÆCILODRYAS SUBCYANEA*, sp. nov.

Evidently the eastern representative of *P. cyanea*, Salvad., from which it differs in the almost entire absence of the white bases of the remiges, one specimen only showing a trace of them, in the feathers of the lower abdomen and the under tail-coverts being tipped with white or buff, except in one other specimen in which the white tips are obsolete, and in the throat being fringed with brown. Of *P. cyanea* Dr. Gadow says (Brit. Mus. Cat. viii. p. 183) that the scales in the front of the tarsus are fused into one long scutum; in the present bird they are distinct. Length 155 mm., wing 94, tail 64, culmen 15, tarsus 27.

Described from four spirit-specimens.

13. *GERYGONE MURINA*, sp. nov.

Above olive-brown, purer brown on the head and upper

tail-coverts, the latter darker; feathers of front, lores, and cheeks mottled with lighter tips and darker centres; ear-coverts brown, slightly rufescent; beneath dingy yellowish white to pale fawn on lower breast and white on middle of abdomen; rectrices olive, with a broad fuscous shading near the tips, which are grey on the mesials, white on the laterals, the outermost tip broad and well defined on the inner web; axillaries, metacarpal edge, and under wing-coverts pale lemon-yellow; wing- and primary-coverts fuscous, edged with olive-brown; inner webs of remiges edged with grey; base of under mandible whitish; under surface of toes yellow: "iris straw-yellow; beak corneous; feet light corneous in male, corneous in female." Length 100 mm., wing 60, tail 39, culmen 8, tarsus 18.

"Male and female: Mt. Scratchley, at 12,200 feet; contents of stomach, insects."

Approximates to *G. magnirostris*, Gld., but has a longer bill, shorter tail, and the upper surface olive.

14. GERYGONE BRUNNEA, sp. nov.

All above brown, slightly tinged with olive; wings fuscous brown, with a broad subterminal fuscous band, the two outermost rectrices tipped with brownish grey; all beneath, under wing-coverts, and inner edges of remiges dingy fulvous white, more nearly pure white on abdomen; cheeks as the under surface, but with fuscous mottling: bill black; legs and feet brown. Length 105 mm., wing 62, tail 40, culmen 7.5, tarsus 18.5.

Described from a spirit-specimen.

Fam. LANIIDÆ.

15. GRALLINA BRUIJNI, Salvad.

Male. Above blue-black; wing-coverts, except the outermost of the greater and all the primary series, white; secondaries and tertials fringed with white, forming with the coverts a continuous white band across the rump; lores, cheeks, and all beneath to abdomen (its sides included) black; a supraorbital stripe behind the eye, the ear-coverts, and sides of neck white; middle of abdomen, thighs, crissals, under tail-coverts, and basal three-fifths of the tail white,

suffused with buff; rump, upper tail-coverts, and basal three-fifths of upper surface of tail white, the coverts strongly, the tail faintly tinged with buff; under wing-coverts black; quills beneath entirely black: "iris brown; beak and feet light blue." Length 182 mm., wing 103, tail 85, culmen 16, tarsus 23.

"Male: Neneba, Mt. Scratchley, at 4000 feet, Nov. 4th, 1896; contents of stomach, insects."

With regard to this *Grallina*, there are two possibilities; either it forms a new species still smaller than *G. bruijni*, Salvad., a supposition favoured by the fact that males of *G. picata* are larger, as a rule, than their females; or, more probably, as it seems to me, it is the true male of *G. bruijni*—more probably because it is more unlikely that the sexes of *G. bruijni* should have identical colouring, while those of *G. picata* have distinguishing characters, than that *G. bruijni* should be larger on Mt. Arfak than on Mt. Scratchley. If, however, Salvadori should be right as to the sex of the example of *G. bruijni* which he considers to be a male, then the present species must be different*.

16. PACHYCEPHALA, sp. inc.

Female. Above brown, slightly washed with rufous on the back and hind neck; ear-coverts, sides of neck, a broad pectoral band, and flanks pale tawny brown; rest of under surface white; indistinct shaft-streaks on throat and breast; under wing-coverts white, whity brown near edge of wing; edges of quills beneath white, with a tawny wash; wing fuscous, primaries edged with grey, rest of quills edged with the colour of the back; a spot before the eye dusky; a superciliary stripe from the lore brownish buff; tail brown: beak black; legs and feet brown. Length 145 mm., wing 77, tail 68, culmen 10, tarsus 20.

Young male and two females: "Boirave, July 11th–24th, 1896. Iris brown; beak black, corneous in male; feet grey, pink in male. Contents of stomach, insects."

* [Mr. De Vis has sent home a skin of this bird for comparison. Dr. Bowdler Sharpe considers it to be undoubtedly referable to *G. bruijni*.—EDD.]

17. *PACHYCEPHALA SORORCULA*, sp. nov. = *Schlegelia (Pachycephala) sororcula* De Vis, 1907

Male. Occiput and all above olive-green; head brown, a little ashy; supracaudals with bright yellow tips; cheeks, chin, and upper throat grey, with fuscous centres and ashy-white tips; jugular collar smoky grey, its lateral and hindmost feathers greenish yellow; all the rest beneath yellow; wing-coverts, secondaries, and base of inner primaries edged with yellow, the other primaries with ashy; wing fuscous brown; tail dark brown, tinged with olive-green above and brighter yellowish green below; metacarpal edge and adjacent under wing-coverts yellow; inner edge of remiges within ashy; thigh brown, the hinder lower feathers with yellowish tips: bill black; feet light brown. Length 150 mm., wing 85, tail 68, culmen 10, tarsus 26, gape 18.

Described from a spirit-specimen.

Fam. C E R T H I I D Æ.

18. *DAPHNOSITTA MIRANDA*, gen. et sp. nov.

DAPHNOSITTA, gen. nov.

Bill subulate, straight, shorter than the head, not notched; nostril basal, exposed, in front of an operculated groove; no rictal bristles; wing more than twice as long as tail, first primary reaching beyond primary-coverts, tip of wing sharp, formed by third, fourth, and fifth primaries, secondaries short; tail short, obtusely granulated: feet crimson; tarsus and hallux (with claw) of equal length, longer than middle toe; claw of hallux as long as its phalanx.

DAPHNOSITTA MIRANDA, sp. nov.

Above and below black, the feathers broadly edged with lead-grey; wing and tail fuscous brown; the four rectrices largely tipped with pink, nearly half the outermost being of that colour; rump stained with crimson; forehead, chin, and some feathers of the orbital ring rich crimson; metacarpal edge and adjacent under wing-coverts white; middle third of primaries and secondaries white on under surface of inner webs, forming a broad band across the wing; lateral rectrices below darker pink than on the upper surface: "iris straw-

yellow ; beak black ; feet yellow." Length 112 mm., wing 83, tail 44, beak 18·5, tarsus 15.

Three females : "Mt. Scratchley at 12,200 feet, Oct. 1st-5th, 1896 ; contents of stomach, insects." One spirit-specimen.

Apart from the shortness and straightness of the bill, this bird is structurally a *Sittella*, and, were it not for its very erratic colouring, its bill would hardly prevent it finding a home in that genus. But on the ground that so wide a departure from the characteristic sobriety in colours of the *Sittellas*, and indeed of the *Creepers* generally, argues physical differences not apparent to the eye, it appears to me advisable to provide a separate genus for the present bird.

Fam. MELIPHAGIDÆ.

19. MELIORNIS SCHISTACEA, sp. nov.

Above brown, slightly washed with ash-grey ; feathers of head and mantle with obscure fuscous shaft-streaks ; below ashy brown ; chin and throat mottled with greyish-white tips ; abdomen obscurely streaked with the same ; tips over vent and under tail-coverts purer white ; lores and cheeks minutely mottled with white tips ; ear-coverts greyish brown ; wings and tail brown, paler below ; two outer rectrices largely tipped with brownish grey ; under wing-coverts brown ; thighs paler brown : bill brown-black ; tarsi and toes horn-blue. Length 155 mm., wing 76, tail 67, culmen (estimated) 14, tarsus 22.

This Honey-eater, described from a spirit-specimen, has all the structural characters of a *Meliornis*, yet I am by no means satisfied that it can be properly placed in that genus. The general habit of the bird and its total want of bright colouring militate much against it ; the bill, however, in this example is so much injured (the upper mandible being half blown away) that I prefer to wait for a more perfect specimen before proposing generic distinction for it.

20. PTILOTIS SIBISIBINA, sp. nov.

Male. Head and neck above brown, washed with olive-

green, neck spotted with ashy tips ; back rufous brown, with slightly paler edges ; rump rufous brown ; upper tail-coverts, wings, and tail fuscous brown, the remiges edged with rufous, the primary-coverts rufous ; ear-orifice anteriorly fringed with pale yellowish-buff feathers with fuscous centres ; behind the ear a narrow stripe of golden yellow ; malar region fuscous in middle, yellowish towards the ears ; chin and upper throat ash-grey ; rest of lower surface russet-brown, washed with yellow on lower throat, with rather paler tips on sides of breast, and inclining to pale chestnut on sides of abdomen, under tail-coverts, and under surface of tail ; middle of abdomen pale ashy grey ; under wing-coverts buff stained with chestnut ; under surface of wing fuscous brown, the quills broadly edged on inner web with rich rufous : "iris brown ; beak black ; under the eyes dull yellow ; feet grey or light grey." Length 190 mm., wing 97, tail 85, culmen 25, tarsus 23.

Female. Head and neck above grey, with a brown tinge, no grey spots on neck (in another specimen marked ♀ they are present), the auricular fringe and malar region brown ; otherwise like the male.

Two males and two females : "Boirave, July 13th-24th, 1896. Contents of stomach in two (♂ ♀) fruits, in the others insects. Native name 'Sibisibina.'"

This species is generally similar to *P. filigera* and *P. xanthotis*, with a distinct caruncular fold under the eye and behind the gape above and below, especially in the male.

21. *PTILODIS LACRIMANS*, sp. nov.

Above fuscous brown, with slight tinge of olive ; wing-feathers edged with bright olive-green ; the rectrices faintly washed with olive on outer webs ; forehead, lores, behind and below the eye posteriorly nearly black, the last crescentiform, conspicuously spotted with white ; over the rictus a nude spot, margined above with short yellowish feathers, which merge into a bright yellow stripe over the fuscous ear-coverts, some of which below it are also yellow ; behind the ear-coverts a broad triangular tuft of white ; chin and throat

fuscous, with a patch of yellow on each side, which may reach almost round the throat; rest of under surface dull olive-grey, the centres of the upper breast-feathers rather darker; abdomen dark ashy grey, with pale tips, forming indistinct bars; under tail-coverts pale fuscous, edged with isabel-grey; metacarpal edgings and under wing-coverts buff stained with pale fuscous: "iris brown; beak black; feet yellow." Length 182 mm., wing 85, tail 87, culmen 16, tarsus 19.

"Two females: Mt. Scratchley, at 12,200, Oct. 5th and Sept. 16th, 1896."

The dark forehead and throat, white-spotted face, grey-spotted abdomen, and sordid under tail-coverts separate this bird from the nearly allied *P. subfrenata*, Salvad.

22. *PTILOTIS OBSCURA*, sp. nov.

Above dull olive, feathers of head and back with fuscous shaft-streaks; wing and tail fuscous, edged with olive-green, the primaries narrowly edged with greyish green; lores fuscous, a supraloral band from forehead isabel; below pale rufous brown, washed with olive-brown and varied with narrow fuscous shaft-streaks on lower throat and breast; chin and upper throat buffy white; under tail-coverts buff; under wing-coverts buffy white; a few post-auricular plumes with whitish tips; sides of throat fuscous: beak black; legs pale brown; toes dark brown. Length 170 mm., wing 82, tail 70, culmen 13, tarsus 23.

From Mt. Scratchley; condition bad, and sex not determined.

23. *ACANTHOCHERA FUSCA*, sp. nov.

Male. Above and below fuscous, feathers of back obscurely, of breast more distinctly edged with grey; chin and upper throat-feathers speckled with brown, the tips of their shafts naked; abdomen smoky brown; upper tail-coverts smoky brown, with rufous-grey edges; naked skin of head confined to a subocular stripe and postocular spot; inner edges of lateral rectrices below grey: "iris brown or light brown;

beak black; under eye light blue, behind eye yellow or orange-yellow; feet grey." Length 240 mm., wing 109, tail 128, culmen 27, tarsus 30.

Four males, three females: "Mt. Scratchley, at 12,200 feet, Sept. 25th–Oct. 6th, 1896; contents of stomach, fruits in two, insects in the others." Three spirit-specimens.

The tail is strongly graduated; there is a caruncular fold in the skin of the lower eyelid, varying in distinctness in different specimens. These birds are in full moult.

24. *NENEBA PRASINA*, gen. et sp. nov.

NENEBA, gen. nov.

Bill strong, subconical, shorter than the rest of the head, as deep as broad at forehead; culmen strong, straight at base, gently curved to tip; gonys convex in middle; nostrils round, naked, at the end of a coriaceous groove; rictal bristles few and feeble; wing moderate, narrow, pointed, tip formed by third, fourth, and fifth primaries, fourth and fifth equal and longest, first half as long as second; tarsus moderate, scute almost entire in front; hind toe strong, as long as middle toe; tail moderate, rounded. Habit slender; colouring plain.

NENEBA PRASINA, sp. nov.

Head, hind neck, ear-coverts, and sides of head brown, washed with olive; back, rump, upper tail-coverts, and edges of remiges and rectrices olive-green, edges of primaries brighter; wings and tail brown; chin and throat pale earth-brown, faintly washed with green and streaked with pale yellow; breast, abdomen, and under tail-coverts sordid greenish grey, with broad, obscure, yellowish, longitudinal edge-streaks on the breast and abdomen; round the eye a ring of differentiated feathers russet-green; under wing-coverts white dappled with grey: "iris light brown; beak brown; feet grey."

Male: "Neneba, Mt. Scratchley, at 4000 feet, Nov. 9th, 1896; contents of stomach, seeds."

25. *ZOSTEROPS CUICUI*, sp. nov.

Male. Above uniform green, wings and tail brown, edged

with green, the lores fuscous grey (fuscous bases and white tips); orbital ring yellow; ear-coverts fuscous green with white shafts; under surface citrine-yellow, paler on throat and under tail-coverts; metacarpal edge and adjacent under wing-coverts yellow; under surface of wing and tail ashy brown; inner web of secondaries narrowly edged with grey: "iris light brown in male, brown in female; beak above black in male, corneous in female, lower mandible yellow; feet yellow." Length 133 mm., wing 78, tail 60, culmen 10, tarsus 12.

Male and female: "Boirave, July 9th and 16th, 1896; contents of stomach, insects. Native name 'Kui Kui.'"

26. *ZOSTEROPS LETA*, sp. nov.

Above yellowish green, the head rather duller; rump bright yellow; lores, orbital ring, cheeks, and ear-coverts yellow, the last two greenish; a dusky spot before the eye; body beneath and under wing-coverts yellow, feathers of the throat white at the base; wing-coverts and tail fuscous, edges uniform with the back; tail beneath brown, washed with green; lateral rectrices edged beneath with dull olive-green: bill brownish black; upper part of tarsus yellow, lower and feet pale yellowish brown. Length 115 mm., wing 75, tail 44, culmen 8, tarsus 18.

Described from two spirit-specimens.

Fam. SYLVIIDÆ.

27. *MEGALURUS PUNCTATUS*, sp. nov.

Above rufous brown, a little redder on head and upper tail-coverts; feathers of head and upper tail-coverts with narrow fuscous shaft-streaks, those of head with much broader streaks; tail like back, with broad fuscous shaft-streaks, in which are numerous darker bars; lores grey; a buffy-grey superciliary stripe behind the middle of the eye; ear-coverts brown, with white shaft-streaks: below impure white; lower throat pale brown, with fuscous spots anteriorly, mostly on either side of it; sides of breast, flanks, crissals, and under tail-coverts slightly rufous brown, the terminals of the last with narrow fuscous shaft-streaks; metacarpal edge and

under wing-coverts like flanks, with fuscous centres; wings above fuscous brown, secondaries broadly edged all round with rufous, primaries narrowly with greyish brown; under wing fuliginous grey, internal webs pale sordid rufous: "iris light brown; beak light brown; feet pink." Length 190 mm., wing 61, tail 108, culmen 12.5, tarsus 21.

"Male: Neneba, Mt. Scratchley, Nov. 10th, 1896; contents of stomach, insects."

28. *ACROCEPHALUS CERVINUS*, sp. nov.

Female. Above olive-brown, tinged with russet on rump and upper tail-coverts; below nearly uniform vinaceous fawn-brown, rather darker posteriorly; primary-coverts pale fuscous brown, edges of primaries tinged with yellow; metacarpal edge and under wing-coverts dull buff; no distinct eye-stripe; thighs yellowish brown; inner webs of quills narrowly edged with pale rufous: "iris red; upper mandible corneous, lower pink; feet pink." Length 171 mm., wing 80, tail 76, culmen 14.5, tarsus 22.

Female: "July 24, 1896; contents of stomach, insects and flowers."

29. *DRYMAEDUS BREVIROSTRIS*, sp. nov.

Above coffee-brown, the rump tipped with buffy brown, the head and neck brown, deepening to fuscous on the forehead; chin and upper throat sordid white; rest of under surface ashy, washed with brown, becoming rufous on flanks and vent and chestnut-brown on under tail-coverts; lores and eyelid posteriorly white, separated by a black spot above and below; side of head ashy brown; ear-coverts at base and a patch on the sides of the throat fuscous; apical half of ear-coverts ashy, with white shafts; all the wing-coverts black, and, except on one or two of the primary-coverts, largely white-tipped, forming two bands across the wing; remiges fuscous brown, a trace of a grey spot near base of fourth and fifth primaries; apical half of primaries edged with white, greyer towards tip; secondaries edged with russet-brown; axillaries ashy; under wing-coverts blackish, broadly white-tipped, forming a bar; primaries and second-

aries with a white spot near the base, forming a second and larger bar; tail dark reddish brown, becoming fuscous brown on the laterals, all but the four central quills tipped with white, the outermost broadly: "iris brown; beak black; feet pink." Length 196 mm., wing 77, tail 90, culmen 13, tarsus 37.

"Female: July 9th, 1896; contents of stomach, insects. Native name 'Kneto.'"

Apart from the differences of colouring, I judge, from the shortness of the bill and the proportions of the tarsus, wing, and tail, that this is not the female of either *D. beccarii*, Salvad., or *D. brevicauda*, mihi, and give it a distinctive name accordingly.

30. *CRATEROSCELIS MONTANA*, sp. nov.

Fledgeling. Upper surface and tail rather bright rufous brown, upper tail-coverts still more rufous; head greenish grey; beneath grey, streaked with whitish tips on chin and throat; upper breast dusky grey, with blackish shaft-stripes; lower flanks and abdomen washed with rufous; under tail-coverts dark rufous; wing fuscous brown, edges of secondaries uniform with back, extreme edges of primaries greyish brown; inner primaries and secondaries beneath edged with rufous; metacarpal edge fawn, streaked with dark shaft-stripes; front and lores blackish; orbital ring and some feathers above and below it buffy white: bill brownish black; feet greyish brown. Length 130 mm., wing 65, tail 30, culmen 20, tarsus 20.

A larger bird than *C. murina*; I am inclined to think that when we know it in its adult condition we shall recognize in it a true *Brachypteryx*, according to Horsfield's definition of that genus. Described from a spirit-specimen.

Fam. PLOCEIDÆ.

31. *MUNIA MONTICOLA*, sp. nov.

Male. Above dusky chestnut, somewhat paler and duller on hind neck and occiput, from this forward gradually darker, on forehead nearly black; rump purer and brighter chestnut; upper tail-coverts and edges of middle rectrices

straw-yellow ; cheeks, chin, and throat black ; breast white, washed with very pale chestnut and scantily flecked with darker ; a black pectoral band ; lower breast and abdomen white, washed with isabel ; flanks white, boldly barred with black ; thighs, crissals, and under tail-coverts black, the hindmost of the latter tipped with straw-colour ; metacarpal edge and under wing-coverts buffy white : "iris brown ; beak blue in adults, corneous blue to grey in young ; feet corneous, corneous blue, or dirty grey." Length 120 mm., wing 62, tail 5·7, culmen 9, tarsus 17.

[The specimen is not quite adult, some brown feathers remaining on the head, and on the thighs and under tail-coverts are traces of buffy brown.]

Female, adult, similar to male.

Female, young. Above brown, growing brighter posteriorly to the upper tail-coverts, which are rufous fawn or pale chestnut ; head slightly mottled with dusky centres ; wing-coverts as back, but with paler edges ; wing fuscous, with rufous edges, the secondaries with pale tips ; metacarpal edge as under wing-coverts, buff ; ear-coverts as head, uniform ; chin and throat nearly black, mottled with white tips ; breast sordid brownish grey, rest of under surface buffy white ; flanks and under tail-coverts pale ruddy buff.

[Distinguished from the young of *M. nigriceps* by the colour of the upper tail-coverts and of the upper breast ; the black pectoral band is the first sign of adolescence to make its appearance.]

This species approaches *M. nigriceps*, but has several marks of distinction.

"Two males, three females : Mt. Scratchley at 12,200 feet, Sept. 16th to 28th, 1896 ; contents of stomach, seeds." Also one spirit-specimen.

32. OREOSPIZA FULIGINOSA, gen. et sp. nov.

OREOSPIZA, gen. nov.

Bill short, triangular, pointed, not toothed or festooned ; profile of culmen and gonys convex ; lower mandible shorter, but nearly as deep as the upper ; wing pointed, fourth, fifth, and sixth primaries longest, secondaries shorter than

primaries ; tail shorter than wing, not, or but slightly, longer than outstretched feet (in spirit-specimen decidedly longer), rounded, middle quills not pointed ; laterals shorter than mesials by about the length of the culmen ; tarsus moderate, middle toe equal to it in length ; colouring dark, relieved with crimson.

OREOSPIZA FULIGINOSA, sp. nov.

Male. Above smoky olive-brown, inclining to smoky grey anteriorly ; upper tail-coverts crimson ; tail fuscous, lustrous, with many narrow blackish bars ; beneath as above, tips of feathers on the sides and lower edge of the throat, edges of most on the upper breast, forming an incoherent pectoral band, most of the flank and the tips of some of the under tail-coverts crimson ; under surface of wing and tail fuscous brown : "iris dull red ; beak coral-red in adults, corneous or brown above and red below in young ; feet corneous."

"One male, one adult and two young females ; Mt. Scratchley, at 12,200 feet ; contents of stomach, seeds. The call of this bird is exactly like that of the domestic Canary."

The female scarcely differs from the male, and the young differ from adults mainly in having the under surface russet-or pale coffee-brown and the upper mandible dark horn-brown.

33. *LOBOSPINGUS SIGILLIFER*, gen. et sp. nov.

LOBOSPINGUS, gen. nov.

Beak shorter than head, pointed, nearly as broad as high at nostril, culmen and gonys with nearly equal curves ; edge of upper mandible convex laterally and vertically, becoming suddenly sharp and deflected in front of rictus, but not forming a tooth, angle of lower mandible rounded ; nostril narrow, vertical, exposed ; caruncular lobules behind the rictus ; wing short, first primary short, not reaching tips of primary-coverts, tip formed of the second, third, and fourth, third slightly the longest ; tail short, rounded ; legs and feet stout.

LOBOSPINGUS SIGILLIFER, sp. nov.

Above bright green ; rump, upper tail-coverts, and central tail-feathers brown, the last tinged with green ; wings and

primary-coverts fuscous, the former edged uniformly with black, lesser and mesial coverts green; caruncular lobes consisting of two round, flat, blue discs behind rictus, and a yellow triangular cushion-like lobe behind them; body beneath and side of head dull pale green; under wing-coverts, breast, and abdomen pale brown; under tail-coverts rufous brown; inner edges of remiges pale brown; tail fuscous, with brownish ashy edges: upper mandible fuscous with yellow edge, lower yellow with the base below fuscous; legs and feet pinky grey.

Described from a spirit-specimen.

Fam. PARADISEIDÆ.

34. PAROTIA HELENÆ, sp. nov.

This species bears a very close general resemblance to *P. lawesi*, Rams., and might be described in the same terms, were it not differentiated from it by the form and colouring of the crest and the non-elongation of the superciliary plumes; the supranasal part of the crest is erect and very low anteriorly and ascends gently to the forehead, the frontal part is suddenly elongated and forms a compressed rounded lobe; the short anterior portion is bright bronze-brown, the elevated posterior part is dark coffee-brown, with a paler bronze-brown reflection, and the adjacent parts of the head are similar in colour and lustre: "iris in both sexes yellow, pupil light blue; beak black; feet in male corneous or light brown, in female iron-grey; contents of stomach, fruits. Native name 'Kanaro.'"

The females of the two species can be distinguished only by the colour of the thighs, which in *P. lawesi* is rufous, in *P. helenæ* fuscous.

"Four males, one female: Neneba, Mt. Scratchley, at 4000 feet, Nov. 3rd-4th, 1896." Also one spirit-specimen.

35. ÆLURÆDUS SUBCAUDALIS, sp. nov.

Above bright green; rectrices rather duller and uniform; outer edges of wing-coverts and secondaries with a bluish shade, the latter with small buff apical spots. Head above,

nuchal collar, and ear-coverts much as in *Æ. stonei*, Sharpe; face white, chin grey mottled with black bases; a black moustachial streak from middle of hinder edge of chin to side of neck; upper throat buffy white, immaculate; beneath fawn, washed with yellowish green on lower throat and breast, and varied with large apical black spots, which form longitudinal streaks anteriorly, but break up into smaller scattered spots on lower breast, and vanish on abdomen and thighs; lower tail-coverts fulvous, with green and fuscous-green tips, more or less lengthened; axillaries and lesser under wing-coverts buffy white, the greater series ashy with white tips: beak pale greenish horn; legs and feet bluish grey. Length 242 mm., wing 125, tail 98, culmen 20, tarsus 34.

Mt. Scratchley, a spirit-specimen.

Fam. ANATIDÆ.

36. SALVADORINA WAIGIUENSIS, Rothsch. et Hart.

Male. Head and neck above and below dusky brown, minutely pencilled with paler tips, which are more conspicuous on the sides of the head; a brownish-white crescent on lower eyelid; upper surface black, with a slight gloss of light blue, each feather on the lower back, rump, and upper tail-coverts with two narrow white bars, one terminal, the other mesial and concealed, the bars broader on the scapulars and median wing-coverts; anterior greater coverts broadly edged with white, forming a band across the wing; speculum rich green, with faint purple reflection on upper half, fuscous with purple reflection on lower, broadly edged posteriorly with white, which forms a second band; inner primaries narrowly edged with white; tail fuscous brown, with grey edges above, grey below; lower surface white stained with isabel, which is darker on the upper breast; throat, sides of breast, and whole abdomen and under tail-coverts with fuscous spots, darker and paler mingled; flanks black, conspicuously barred with white edges; wing beneath shining lead-grey; lesser under wing-coverts fuscous, barred with white, tipped with grey, the greater lead-grey; inner

axillaries white, with grey shaft-streaks : "iris brown; beak yellow, upper mandible from base of culmen towards tip light brown; feet yellow, membrane (in female) brown." Length 470 mm., wing 190, tail 130, culmen 35, tarsus 32.

Female like the male, but smaller (length 440 mm.), duller in colouring, with narrower speculum; rectrices narrowly barred with white and with broader edges, and the bars of the lower back and rump undulated.

"Male and female: Mt. Scratchley at 12,200 feet, Sept. 24th, 1896; contents of stomach, stones and dirt."

The egg is of a uniform creamy grey, 55.5×42 mm.

The duckling, as shown by a specimen in spirit, is above brown, wing and rump posteriorly edged with white, tips of tail brownish grey; a broad superciliary band, encroaching in front on the forehead, and sides of head and neck white; a black stripe from the hinder canthus of eye to occiput: bill, legs, and feet blue, nail of bill and nasal region horn-yellow.

[Mr. De Vis had given a new name to this Duck, but it is certainly the same as the curious form of Waigiou lately described and figured in Nov. Zool. (i. p. 683, and ii. p. 22, pl. iii.) as *Salvadorina waigiensis*. We therefore omit Mr. De Vis's name, having received full authority to amend his MS.—EDD.]

XXX.—*Descriptions of some new or little-known Bird's-eggs from Queensland.* By D. LE SOUËF (of Melbourne).

THE following notes relate to the nesting and eggs of various birds which I have either collected myself or of which I have recently received specimens with remarks from my correspondents in Queensland.

1. DACELO CERVINA (Gould). Fawn-breasted Kingfisher.

I noticed this bird on two or three occasions in the open forest country near Cooktown and found two of their nests, each of which contained three eggs; both nests were hollows scooped out in termites' nests in eucalyptus trees, one about thirty feet from the ground and the other fifty. The birds